

and a half years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION  
TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO PROVIDE A CREDIT AGAINST TAX FOR HURRICANE AND TORNADO MITIGATION EXPENDITURES.

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 22, 2013*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Hurricane and Tornado Mitigation Investment Act of 2013. This legislation seeks to encourage individuals and businesses to take proactive preparedness measures to protect their property from potential storm damage. Recent tornado outbreaks across the country this spring, and the impending start of the Atlantic hurricane season, remind us that weather-related emergencies and disasters are ever-present. The bill would amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow individual and business taxpayers a tax credit for a portion of their qualified hurricane and tornado mitigation property expenditures for any taxable year. They would be eligible when they take steps to improve the strength of a roof deck attachment; create a secondary water barrier; improve the durability of a roof covering; brace gable-end walls; reinforce the connections between a roof and supporting wall; protect against windborne debris; or protect exterior doors and garages. In short, this legislation will help communities mitigate against future weather related hazards. Taking mitigation steps now can make a huge difference. In many cases, it may help to reduce loss of life and property damage, while saving money and reducing insurance rates in the long run. I look forward to working with my colleagues to move this legislation through Congress.

TEAM KRAMER

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 22, 2013*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Colorado State Junior Curling Champion team of Preston Kramer, Nathan Parry, Spencer Culbertson and Alec Celecki, who were coached by Matt Culbertson and Pam Finch.

These four young men competed as Team Kramer in the 2013 USA Junior National Curling Championships January 26–February 2, 2013, at Broomstones Curling Club in Wayland, Massachusetts. These young men won the Colorado State Championships and Regional Championships held in Oregon.

At the National Championships, Team Kramer competed against 9 other teams. Although the team did not win the tournament and a berth in the World Championships in Sochi, Russia, they were awarded the Curtis Cup, given to the team who exhibited sportsmanship, and the true spirit of the game of curling.

I commend these young men for their success on the curling sheet, and for their example of true sportsmanship. I have no doubt they will exhibit the same dedication and character in all their future endeavors.

HONORING DR. ARNOLD L. MITCHEM AS HE RECEIVES THE INAUGURAL HAL D. PAYNE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 22, 2013*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor to Dr. Arnold L. Mitchem, the inaugural recipient of the Hal D. Payne Educational Opportunity Lifetime Service Award by the Upward Bound Program of Buffalo State College.

Dr. Mitchem is recognized for his service as president of the Council for Opportunity in Education since 1986. This noble organization's mission is to advance and defend the ideal of equal educational opportunity in post-secondary education. The COE is a remarkably far-reaching program, serving close to 800,000 students annually by providing professional development and advocacy for nearly 2,800 federally funded college opportunity programs at more than 1,000 colleges nationwide.

Dr. Mitchem has dedicated his career to striving for equality and diversity in education. As a trustee for the College Board, a member of INROADS, Inc's first National Board, and as a past president of the Committee for Education Funding, he has greatly impacted the national discourse about inequality and education. He is the founding president of the Mid-America Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel, a consortium dedicated to leveling the playing field for those least likely to enroll in college, including low-income, disabled, and first generation students.

A recipient of honorary doctorates from ten universities, Dr. Mitchem has been recognized across the country for his tireless efforts and passion. Additional awards and recognitions include the Arturo Schomburg Distinguished Service Award from the Association for Equality and Excellence in Education, Inc., and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities.

In addition to his professional accolades, Dr. Mitchem and his lovely wife Freda have raised four children together: Michael, Thea, Nichelle, and Adrienne.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor Dr. Arnold Mitchem as a true champion for equality in education and congratulate him as he receives the inaugural Hal D. Payne Educational Opportunity Lifetime Service Award. I am sincerely grateful for his service and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EU'S DESIGNATION OF HEZBOLLAH AS A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 22, 2013*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, today, the European Union (EU) demonstrated its commitment to global security as the 28 EU member states spoke as one voice to condemn Hezbollah's deadly attack in Burgas, Bulgaria last year, and for plotting a similar attack in Cyprus.

As the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats, I feel that it is difficult to determine where Hezbollah's civilian wing ends and militant one begins, but the EU's decision to designate the military wing of Hezbollah as a terrorist organization is a welcomed step. This designation will send a clear message to the international community that freedom-espousing democracies will not stand idly by in the face of coercive tactics and aggression by Hezbollah's leaders, militants, and their foreign financiers.

I am confident that following today's decision, more governments will follow suit and see Hezbollah for what it truly is— a terrorist organization devoted to violence against innocent people both within and beyond Lebanon's borders.

STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes:

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, education is our greatest investment in our future. As with any long term investment, the real rewards of the investment are often not seen until decades later. Investment takes patience and foresight and a thoughtful approach.

Studies show that U.S. businesses are in need of workers that are collaborative and creative critical thinkers. We must build an educational system that supports the development of this workforce. To achieve this, we in Congress must reflect these values by working collaboratively and tapping the full complement of creative minds in this House. Our work product can only be as good as we are.

I ask that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle work with us to develop the kind of educational system that will provide the opportunity for every child to meet their potential and become assets to our country.

Let's begin by finding our common ground. We all can agree that our current accountability system goes too far and too often acts as the enemy of creativity. Our challenge is to develop policy that supports inspired learning environments while also accounting for ELL